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SENATE BILL 1060
By Burks

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33, relative to providing services for persons with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities.

WHEREAS, the commission on community-based services found that waiting lists of more than 2,000 persons with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities existed for services;

WHEREAS, the commission further found that the current system is inadequate and funding has not kept pace with the demand for support and services; and

WHEREAS, the current system is unable to handle a large increase in new participants in the near future; now, therefore:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. The department of mental health and mental retardation is hereby directed to develop programs and make available more services for persons with mental retardation and related developmental disabilities based upon the commission on community-based services study and report.

SECTION 2.

(a) The department of mental health and mental retardation shall enhance existing data systems to keep relevant and accurate data on those persons who need or may need services.

(b) The department shall coordinate with other state agencies in order to identify individuals with developmental disabilities who may be in need of services.

(c) The department shall establish a network for information and access that individuals can use locally to obtain information and referral assistance, apply for services, and receive other assistance.

(d) The department shall develop a strategy to provide training and technical assistance regarding different service and support options to people with developmental disabilities.

SECTION 3. The department of mental health and mental retardation is authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act. All such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 5.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.